



**MINUTES FOR GLEN EIRA
ARTS AND CULTURE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Tuesday 13 June 2023
5pm-6pm**

Rippon Lea Room - Glen Eira Town Hall

Purpose:

To assist and advise Council regarding key issues relating to arts and culture; to contribute views on the cultural needs of the community; and to collaborate on strategies to encourage participation in the cultural life of Glen Eira.

Assembly of Councillors Record

The meeting commenced at 5:05pm with an Acknowledgement of Country.

Present:

<i>Councillors:</i>	Cr Margaret Esakoff (Chair) Cr Sam Parasol Cr Li Zhang	Glen Eira Councillor Committee Member Glen Eira Councillor Committee Member Glen Eira Councillor Committee Member
<i>Community Representatives:</i>	Jytte Holmqvist Louis Balis Kathleen Plastow	Community Committee Member Community Committee Member Community Committee Member
<i>Council Staff:</i>	Mark Saunders Deidre Pellizzer Hayley Conn	Director Community Wellbeing Manager Libraries, Arts & Culture Major Events Officer

1. Apologies:	Cr Anne-Marie Cade Tori Hayat	Glen Eira Councillor Committee Member Team Leader Arts & Culture
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2. Conflicts of Interest Declaration

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

3. Action Items update from last Committee Meeting

Mark Saunders

Title/Item	Action	Update	Responsible Officer	Active/Closed
Arts and Culture Marketing Strategies (Action Item 1 at the last Committee Meeting)	Officers will also include use of the Council branded trailer when it becomes available.	Trailer has been delivered and will be used at Diwali.	Tori Hayat	Closed
Forward Meeting Schedule (Item 7 at the last Committee Meeting)	Committee Meeting Schedule for 2023 is to be confirmed.	2023 meeting dates to be decided.	Mark Saunders	Closed
Carols Event (Item 5.1 at the last Committee Meeting)	Officers will prepare a proposal for Carols to present at the June Committee meeting.	Proposal presented in Item 5.2 of this meeting.	Tori Hayat	Closed
Events Schedule July - December 2023 (Item 5.2 at the last Committee meeting)	Officers will present the finalised schedule at the June Committee meeting for approval. A location map of the events will accompany the schedule.	Events Schedule for July 2023 - July 2024, along with location map, presented in Item 5.2 of this meeting.	Tori Hayat	Closed
Arts and Culture Budget (Item 4 at the last Committee meeting)	Officers will respond to question on notice – what percentage of the Arts and Culture budget goes to Carols?	Response to be discussed at future meeting.	Deidre Pellizzer	Open
Glen Eira News at Bentleigh Library and Youth Hub (Item 5.1 at the last Committee meeting)	Officers will check the number of GE News copies delivered to Bentleigh Library and Youth Hub.	Six copies of the GE News are delivered to the Hub, for in-house use only. Officers have requested that more copies be made available for general distribution.	Deidre Pellizzer	Closed
Summer Festival (Item 5.2 at the last Committee meeting)	Officers will bring further detail about the Summer Storytelling Festival to the next Committee meeting.	Proposal presented in Item 5.2 of this meeting.	Tori Hayat	Closed
My Brother Jack Awards (Item 5.2 at the last Committee meeting)	Officers will confirm details of the My Brother Jack Awards at the next Committee meeting.	See Item 3.1 of this meeting.	Deidre Pellizzer	Closed

Title/Item	Action	Update	Responsible Officer	Active/Closed
Vacant shopfront project (Item 6 at the last Committee meeting)	Officers will provide an update from the City Futures Placemaking team on the progress of this project at the next Committee meeting.	An update will be presented in Item 5.4 of this meeting.	Economic Development team	Closed

Note: Any items still active to be carried over to next meeting.

3.1 The My Brother Jack (MBJ) Awards

Deidre Pellizzer

Competition opens: 9am, Monday 3 July 2023

Competition closes: 5pm, Monday 11 September 2023

Awards ceremony: 2pm, Sunday 5 November 2023

Now in its 28th year, the My Brother Jack Awards recognise the outstanding literary achievements of people who live, work or study in Glen Eira. From emerging writers to future literary stars, the Awards celebrate local talent and the stories that shape our community. Prizes are awarded for short stories and poetry in the categories of Primary, Junior Secondary, Senior Secondary, and Open.

The MBJ Awards has become an integral part of the GE Libraries activities. This year, the libraries have planned several related programs and workshops to assist community members to develop and craft their work.

Discussion of the MBJ Awards included the following points:

- Ms Plastow suggested that targeted promotion of the novel My Brother Jack itself be included in marketing of the program, particularly through schools.
- Cr Parasol requested that the MBJ Awards program is included in the Glen Eira Events Schedule.
- Cr Esakoff raised a concern that the Awards finish date and event falls at the end of the school year which could make it difficult for some participants.
- Councillors suggest MBJ could once again be included in the Storytelling Festival program.
- Officers suggest a change to the dates for MBJ Awards 2024 in that the competition starts with the new Summer Storytelling Festival date in February and finishes in June or July as part of the Winter programming of events.

Action:

Officers will include all Committee suggestions and the change of date when planning for the 2024 My Brother Jack Awards.

4. Summary of meeting minutes from previous meeting

Mark Saunders

At the Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 18 April 2023, the following items were addressed:

- Officers presented an update on two recent events, Groove and Graze and 10,000 Kazoos, sharing successes, improvements and feedback.
- The Committee agreed to move the Glen Eira Storytelling Festival from July 2023 to Summer 2024.
- The Committee enquired about the progress of the vacant shopfronts project by City Futures Placemaking.

5. Items for Discussion:

5.1 Recent Events Update

Hayley Conn

Officers provided an update of events during a super busy month of late April to May.

ANZAC Day

The annual Glen Eira ANZAC Day Commemoration Service was held on Sunday 23 April 2023, at the Caulfield Park Cenotaph.

Formal proceedings were conducted by the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and CEO, and included a reading by McKinnon Secondary College school captains. Wreaths were laid by local dignitaries and members from local scout groups and RSLs. Approximately 150 people attended the service including invited guests and general members of the public.

Noted by the Committee.

2023 Glen Eira Community Awards

The annual Community Awards presentation events were held on Wednesday 17 May 2023, during National Volunteer Week. The Awards event is a celebration of positive community life, held over two sessions in the afternoon and evening and produced by the Arts and Culture team.

The Awards events comprises film clips, speeches honouring recipients and presentation of Awards by the Mayor for the Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Community Group of the Year, Sustainability, Local Hero and Good Neighbour. Volunteer Recognition Certificates were presented by the Mayor to 167 residents from 38 community groups in recognition of their hours or years of service to the community.

For next year, Officers will consider how the event can be delivered to enable opportunities for networking so that recipients on the day can share their experiences and make new connections. There will also be some improvements to the registration process and changes to the announcement of awardees to enable a faster flow of the presentation of awards. There will be a more focussed use of ushers in ensuring that recipients are seen back to their seats and assisted with awards and prizes where required.

Mr Balis suggested that members of the Glen Eira Youth Network are asked to assist with ushering as a positive way to include younger members of the community in Council events.

Action:

Officers will include improvements as discussed when planning next year's event.

Junkyard Beats takes over Glen Eira

Performing arts group *Junkyard Beats* were programmed as one of the interactive arts activities outlined in the Glen Eira Events Schedule over the last two weekends in May.

Junkyard Beats is a percussion-based, musical performance act who transform ordinary household items into musical instruments, thereby promoting recycling and sustainable practices.

The program included workshops (which were booked out very quickly) and stage shows in the Town Hall Auditorium and performances at local shopping precincts, entertaining residents and shoppers with their roving 'Junk Mobile' and pop up 'Flash Mobs'.

Junkyard Beats was a great example of how creative programming can bring connection to our community through music and performing arts. Attracting over 1,900 people of all ages, events such as *Junkyard Beats* are proving to be an effective and positive way of bringing the community into their Town Hall.

Highlights of the feedback received included:

- Hosts were very entertaining. Children were very engaged and loved the event!
- Keep up the great work Glen Eira! Love these free ticketed events on the weekends. A great way to get kids out, especially in winter.
- We were really grateful for the free event - thank you. It was a great program.
- Loved that the event wasn't during the school holidays. As great as it is to have school holiday events, it's really nice to have activities on during the school term too.
- Great live act, enjoyed interactive parts, good messages about caring for the environment, kids loved it. And it was free!! Thank you.
- Everyone loved it and was having a great time. No parents were on phones! Presenters were really engaging.
- I loved the message they were sharing regarding the environment, recycling, and being involved in making a difference.
- I am a senior adult. I loved the energy, the rhythm and the total experience. It was a wonderful way to spend an hour on a rainy day.
- Well organised, fun, entertaining, engaging, kids friendly, fantastic community connection.

Noted by the Committee.

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) 27 May to 3 June

National Reconciliation Week opened this year with over 150 guests attending the launch event in the Gallery. The evening commenced with a Smoking Ceremony and a Welcome to Country, as well as an opening address by the Mayor.

Live performances included *Bandok Tati*, a Wurundjeri young men's dance group and a musical performance by Ngiyampaa man and First Nations singer-songwriter *Pirritu*. Guests also enjoyed The Torch *Confined 14* exhibition and a jewellery-making workshop with Aunty Bronwyn Razem in Gallery 2.

Other NRW events included a First Nations Storytime session at the Bentleigh Hub, exhibition floor talks by The Torch and artists painting live in the Gallery.

The guided flora and fauna tours with Cassie Leatham from the Taungurung/Dja Dja Wurrung people from the Kulin Nation were as popular as ever with over 100 participants. An additional tour was added due to popularity which is a pleasing trend.

Action:

Feedback for this event will be shared with the Committee at a future meeting.

5.2 Glen Eira Events Schedule 2023-24

Deidre Pellizzer

Officers presented the final Glen Eira Events Schedule 2023-24 to the Committee, accompanied by a map of event locations and discussed some key points. Cr Parasol requested that consideration be given to including the GE Community Engagement Van at events starting with the Rolling Shows at Caulfield Racecourse in August. Officers will discuss with the Community Engagement team as to what events will be most suitable.

Winter programs

In view of the change to the scheduling of the Storytelling Festival from July 2023 to February 2024, some alternative events have been planned for the winter months. Events include a new production by arts group A Blank Canvas - *Lil Robots*, and *Wild City* - a sustainability themed installation with workshops. These are further examples of the interactive arts events that have proved successful with the community.

The monthly *Live Sunday Sessions* will continue in the Gallery as well as a major visual arts exhibition, *Flourish – explore a re-imagined natural world*. The exhibition which has been created by Council's curator will present the work of four contemporary artists and will include a range of floor talks and workshops.

Carols in the Gardens 2023

Planning has begun for the 2023 *Carols in the Gardens* event, building on the elements the Committee had observed were very successful for the community in recent years. This year's event is now confirmed at the historic Rippon Lea Estate on Friday 8 December and will be hosted by performers Lucy Durack and Rob Mills.

Other entertainment will build on last year's success and include a First Nations artist performing in language, a traditional choir, children's entertainment provided by the *Teeny Tiny Stevies* as well as some crowd-pleasing roving performers. Activities will include face painting and arts and crafts and there will be a wide selection of food vendors on site which proved a hit last year.

Summer Stories Festival 2024

Officers provided an update of programming for the new look Summer Stories Festival to be held in February 2024 (previously Storytelling Festival). The Festival will be held in conjunction with the GE Libraries from both a venues and programming perspective.

Programming will continue to feature literacy and literature and will include panel discussions, comedy, author talks, and live music. A highlight of the Festival will be an installation by long-term arts organisation the *Snuff Puppets*. A range of food trucks and a pop-up bar will also be on offer.

Officers will keep the Committee informed of programming in future meetings as more activities are confirmed.

Action:

The Glen Eira Events Schedule will be updated to include the My Brother Jack Awards program. Officers will discuss the inclusion of the GE Community Engagement Van at suitable events starting with the Rolling Shows at Caulfield Racecourse.

5.3 Visual Arts Update

Deidre Pellizzer

Proposal to move Guy Boyd sculpture

The Boyd family of artists and their circle of friends have a strong connection with Glen Eira, having lived and worked in Murrumbeena over several generations.

Guy Boyd's sculpture *Swimmer Entering the Water* was donated to the City of Caulfield by the late artist's family in 1989. It was unveiled in the City Hall sculpture garden in 1990 in memory of the artist.

In 2012, the sculpture was moved to the entrance of the Glen Eira Sports and Aquatic Centre (GESAC) as part of the site redevelopment.

From time to time, GESAC staff have reported negative feedback about the sculpture in the location in the carpark. Recently, a member of the community asked that the idea of moving the artwork to a better site be explored.

After some discussion of a possible relocation of the artwork back to the original location at the Town Hall or a consideration of the artwork being placed at the new Carnegie Pool, the Committee were of a strong view that the artwork is well suited to the current location at GESAC and should remain there.

The Committee is open to consider the artwork location at some future point. Officers will investigate any logistical requirements of a move of the artwork and may bring the topic to the Committee for consideration at a future meeting.

5.4 City Futures Placemaking Update

Deidre Pellizzer

Following a presentation on the draft Glen Eira Placemaking Strategy 2023-2027 at an earlier meeting, Mr Balis had asked a follow up question about the activation of vacant shopfronts in activity centres.

Council's Placemaking team have advised that the Glen Eira Placemaking Strategy 2023-2027 was adopted by Council on 2 May 2023. While many possible projects were explored, the Strategy sets out an action plan which directs Council's focus for the next four years. While no actions specifically around the activation of vacant shopfronts were included, we consider vacant shops to be of concern across the municipality and will continue to explore solutions and opportunities.

The nature of these projects – particularly the complexity of working with private property – can be quite challenging and time-consuming meaning that there is no quick fix to the issue. We will provide an update if any projects progress.

6. General Business:

Cr Margaret Esakoff (Chair)

No general business items were raised.

7. Forward Meeting Schedule

Cr Margaret Esakoff (Chair)

Date	Items	Officer/Member
Tuesday 17 October 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• GE Events Update including <i>Carols in the Gardens</i> and the new look <i>Summer Stories Festival</i>• 'Talking Shops: Glen Eira Stories' major heritage exhibition and programs• Collections preservation assessment	Deidre Pellizzer

* Meeting Frequency: Up to a maximum of five meetings per calendar year.

8. Next Meeting

Tuesday 17 October 2023, 5pm-6pm.

9. Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 6.15pm.

Running Recommendation List

For Reference: Recommendations adopted so far during this Advisory Committee Term

Note: This is a running table of the Council adopted recommendations for the duration of this current Advisory Committee to be ongoing at the end of this Agenda as a reference point for members.

Recommendation	Committee Meeting Date	Adopted (Y/N)	Confirmed at OCM Date
'Council accepts the donations from Judy Glick for inclusion in the Glen Eira City Council Art Collection and formally thanks Ms Glick for her generous gift'.	23 June 2022	Yes	9 August 2022
'Council endorses the Glen Eira Events and Festivals Schedule 2022-2023'.	25 August 2022	Yes	12 October 2022
'Council accepts the donations from Jenny Zhe Chang, Inge Ruben, and Hedley Potts for inclusion in the Glen Eira City Council Art Collection and formally thanks the donors for their generous gifts.'	21 March 2023	Yes	2 May 2023